



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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HUNTING AND FISHING SURVEY REVEALS \$3 BILLION ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

Twenty-five million American anglers and hunters spent nearly three billion dollars for 500 million days of sport--and drove their automobiles more than ten billion miles and spent an average of \$114.42 apiece in the pursuit of these recreations in 1955.

Those facts are among the findings of the first national survey of fishing and hunting ever conducted in the United States. The survey was made under the direction of the Fish and Wildlife Service at the recommendation of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners as a basis for a better understanding of the recreational value of hunting and fishing in terms of financial outlays and individual participation, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today.

This project cost \$134,000 and was financed through Federal aid funds which are derived from the Federal excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and on fishing rods, reels, creels, artificial lures, baits, and flies.

The data obtained in the survey pertain to the calendar year 1955 and to persons 12 years old and older. The information is the result of the work of 300 interviewers working in 250 places in the United States. About 20,000 homes were contacted in a representative cross section of the Nation and 6,220 anglers and 3,108 hunters interviewed. The survey was carried out by Crossley, S-D Surveys Inc., of New York on a sample scientifically designed to give the national picture.

The survey showed that:

One American household out of every three had at least one member who hunted or fished or who did both.

One house in every two in the rural areas and one out of every six in the big cities have at least one person who casts a line or draws a bead.

One out of every five Americans 12 years old or older either hunted or fished.

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Hunting and fishing appeal to all age groups from 12 years to 65-plus but seems slightly more popular in the age groups, 12-17 and 35-44.

Hunting appeal holds relatively steady through the age groups from 12 years to 44 years and then the number of nimrods begins to decline.

Of the 118,366,000 individuals aged 12 and over in the United States the survey found that 24,917,000 hunted or fished or did both.

There were 13,133,000 who fished only; 4,104,000 who hunted only, and 7,680,000 who did both.

Five million women fished and nearly half a million hunted.

More than 7,000,000 anglers--mostly salt-water fishermen, women and youths--did not need to obtain a license to fish. (In nearly all coastal States, salt water fishing does not require a license.)

Fresh-water fishing (18,420,000 anglers averaging 18 days apiece) and small game hunting (9,822,000 hunters averaging 12 days apiece) are the most popular of the fish and game sports.

Nearly four and a half million big game hunters averaged seven days apiece in quest of their quarry; nearly two million sought out the waterfowl on the many marshes; and more than four and a half million anglers sought their catches in the salt-water sport fisheries.

The 24,917,000 who hunted and fished spent \$2,851,000,000 in pursuit of this sport, an average of \$114.42 apiece. Of the total amount, \$1,282,300,000 was spent for equipment; \$1,298,800,000 for food, lodging and transportation on hunting and fishing trips; \$81,300,000 for the various licenses including duck stamps; and \$188,600,000 for all other expenses. The individual spent an average of \$51.46 for equipment; \$52.13 on trips; \$3.26 for licenses and \$7.57 for miscellaneous expenses.

The 20,813,000 anglers spent slightly more than \$1,914,000,000, while the 11,784,000 hunters spent \$936,687,000. The average fisherman spent \$91.98 and the average hunter spent \$79.49. More than seven million of these individuals both hunted and fished which accounts for the general average of \$114.42 per person spent in 1955 for this type of recreation.

There was wide variation in expenditures on a regional basis. The salt-water fisherman on the Pacific Coast--1,137,000 of them--spent \$156 each while their salt-water counterparts on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts spent \$91 each. The average of all salt-water anglers was \$107 per person while the average expenditure by the fresh-water angler was \$77.

The duck hunters spent \$119,000,000 or \$60 apiece; big game hunters expended \$73 each and small game hunters \$50 each.

The complete report is carried in Fish and Wildlife Service Circular 44, National Survey of Fishing and Hunting. This is a 52 page publication which includes 20 charts and 18 tables. It is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 40 cents per copy.